

Appl. No. 09/769,388
Amendment dated September 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action f May 19, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims are pending in the application with claims having been currently amended.

Claims 16 and 17 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. It is submitted that the Examiner is in error in this objection. Claim 16 is an independent claim. As submitted, claim 17 was erroneously written as dependent upon itself, but has now been amended to be dependent upon claim 16. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection to claims 16 and 17 be withdrawn. It is understood that these claims are allowable.

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Policello et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,558,806) and Hervé et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,440,756).

Claim 1 has been canceled and all the remaining claims in the application except independent claim 15 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 16, which, as noted above, is allowable. Claim 15 has been amended to be similar to claim 16, but of more restricted scope. It is submitted that claim 15 is thus also in allowable form.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Policello et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,558,806) and Hervé et al. be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early Office Action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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